

The HIV Policy Collaborative

What is a collaborative?

In this instance, a collaborative is a group of interested persons with expertise and knowledge who work together to identify issues and make recommendations for the group as a whole to consider. For the HIV Policy Collaborative, staff or the Department of Health and State Board of Health provide staffing support to the Collaborative.

Why was a HIV Policy Collaborative formed?

In the past four to five years, the Department of Health and the State Board of Health have received several reports and recommendations from different groups including, "The HIV/AIDS Prevention Summit", "2001 HIV Prevention Study" and the AIDSNET Council's "Position Papers". In addition there have been national shifts in the direction of HIV prevention including a much more focused effort on the tracking and evaluating of interventions. Given these various recommendations it seemed like an opportune time to the two agencies initiate a review of policy issues, particularly in light of changes in trends of disease incidence, prevalence, treatment, CDC priorities and current public health practice in Washington State. The collaborative format was suggested because of the range of potential issues and interests that groups may have. A collaborative gives individual members the freedom to bring forth issues and select for organizational action those recommendations from the collaborative that are of particular interest to them.

Who is on the Collaborative?

In addition to HIV-infected persons, the Collaborative includes representatives of major community-based organizations, public health programs, professional associations and organizations, and advisory groups dealing with HIV policies and services. In an attempt to keep the size of the group manageable it was purposeful kept fairly small (i.e. 12-16 invitees)

What process is being used?

The Collaborative will be self-directed but meetings will have a facilitator in order to identify issues of concern based on the member's own experiences and the reports that have been received by the Department of Health and the State Board of Health. Policies contained both in Chapter 70.24 of the Revised Code of Washington and Chapter 246-100 of the Washington Administrative Code will be considered in the process.

How will others be involved?

It is expected that as issues are identified for consideration, public stakeholder meetings will be organized to seek comments, input and recommendations of a broad segment of the community.

What is the expected outcome?

It is anticipated that the Collaborative may make recommendations for revisions to the current HIV policies based on review, discussion and input from stakeholders. These recommendations may include revision of current RCWs or WACs. It will be up to the collaborative membership to identify both strategies and individuals to assist with those changes. It is expected that changes to the RCW could be proposed for the 2005 or 2006 legislative session.

How is the Collaborative linked to the current HIV rule review process?

Agency staff will keep the Collaborative updated on the HIV rule review process. The Collaborative members will determine ways, both individually and collectively, that they might want to provide input into the process.

Where can I get additional information?

For further information and background about this process please go to:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/HIV_AIDS/Prev_Edu/HIV_Policy_Review.htm